

Exploring an Inextricable Relationship between Feminization of Poverty and Feminization of HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe

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ABSTRACT Feminization of poverty has been identified as a major factor informing the state of feminization of HIV/AIDS in many parts of Africa and Zimbabwe is no exception. The researchers are of the view that these two factors in Zimbabwe need to be addressed in tandem if the battle against poverty and HIV/AIDS will ever be won. This paper, through a review of literature, aims to explore the relationship between poverty and HIV/AIDS. Findings indicate that the two phenomena bear an inextricable relationship, with both, mutually and reciprocally reinforcing one another. The following dynamics, directly or indirectly influence the two concepts: patriarchy; phenomenon of bride price; female-headed households; gender inequality; poverty; and traditional practices. The paper recommends the following to address the two concepts: diluting cultures and patriarchal forces; changing mindset on gender roles; affirmative action to empower women; mainstreaming gender neutral education; zero tolerance against sexual violence; and women's economic empowerment. The paper has largely been premised on the Human rights Based Approach.